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Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Application No. 10/681,226; Filed: October 9, 2003

For: Vehicle Improved Steering Inventors: IRIKURA et al.

Our Ref:

0666.1400002/TGD/ALF

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1. Notice of Appeal From the Examiner to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences Large Entity (PTO/SB/31);
- 2. Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038) in the amount of \$500.00 to cover the Notice of Appeal;
- 3. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116; and
- 4. One (1) return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents December 22, 2004 Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Albert L. Ferro

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 44,679

ALF/bls Enclosures

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